

The Edmonton Unitarian

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

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Services for December

Our Vision
The Unitarian Church of Edmonton— a liberal religious, multi-generational congregation. We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually-questing individuals joined in common support and action. We welcome diversity, pursue the common good, and work for justice. We believe in the compassion of the individual heart, the warmth of community, and the search for meaning in our lives.

December 7, 2008

10:30 a.m.

“Lessons and Carols”

Chorealis

Join our choir for a seasonal service of readings, choral pieces and Christmas carols.

December 14, 2008

10:30 a.m.

**Rev. Brian J. Kiely,
Michelle Van Der Molen and just about everybody else
“Mitten Tree”**

Come join us for our annual pandemonious pre-Christmas family service. There will be stories, songs, a celebration of the new babies in our community and a complete lack of sober silence. We will also decorate and dedicate the Mitten Tree with hats, scarves and mittens (and especially SOCKS), to be given to the Boyle Street Co-op. You can also make out cheques to USC Canada to serve their various overseas projects.

NOTE: We have a Mitten Tree tradition of lighting special candles to mark the arrival of new babies in our community. If you have a new child, grandchild or very special young friend you would like recognized, please let Michelle Van Der Molen know at 780-454-5816.

December 21, 2008

10:30 a.m.

“The Lump of Coal”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

The back cover of Lemony Snicket's story of the same name reads, “Miracles can happen, even to those who are small, flammable, and dressed all in black.” It's a good season to think about, and perhaps define, miracles. And you'll hear a great story, too!

December 23, 2008

**6:30 p.m. Rev. Brian J. Kiely and friends
“Blue Christmas”**

This will be our 10th annual service offered for those who have tough times with the Holidays. Not everyone has joyful memories from childhood, while others are mourning losses this year. This is a quiet service of readings, reflection and candle lighting. We make room to touch and honour the pain so many feel in hopes of finding solace if not outright joy. The service is followed by a free supper of homemade soups, pies and bread served up by willing volunteers. Everyone is most welcome.

December 24, 2008

7:00 p.m.

**Rev. Brian Kiely and family
Christmas Eve “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”**

It's a big night for our little people. Santa Claus is coming! But what about Santa's helpers? How do they manage Christmas. It's an evening service for magic and mystery and joy.



December 28, 2008

“Watch Morning”

Karen and Andrew Mills

The typical image of New Year’s Eve is a group of revelers ringing in the new year with champagne and Auld Lang Syne. But on that same night, many churches welcome the coming year in a different way - with a Watch Night service.

Methodism founder John Wesley originated Watch Night services in the mid-18th century, sometimes calling them Covenant Renewal services. In Methodist tradition, Watch Night was considered a time for recommitment. Today, it’s a time the church comes together to celebrate life itself.

Our version of the “Watch” service will be a little early (both in date and hour), but just as celebratory. Come to rejoice in the highlights of your past year, say farewell to the sorrows, and consider your covenants for the year ahead.

We also invite everyone to bring an item for a potluck brunch to follow the service.



Ministerial Musings

It sounded like a silly idea at the time. “Hey, honey,” said my wife Teilya, “Let’s write novels during November!”

“What?”

“Novels. Let’s both write one during

November!”

“But November is sweeps month...it has the best TV!” I protested.

It turns out that it’s not that hard to leave the TV off. Teilya had learned about a website called Nanowrimo.com. It stands for National Novel Writing Month. There’s no money involved and little hope for publication or even having your book read. It’s simply a challenge to sit down on November 1 and write a 50,000 word novel before midnight on the 30th. Insane.

“Quantity not quality,” is one motto of the website. Another is, “December is for editing”. They have been doing this for a decade now. The major purpose is to get people over the ‘one day I’ll write a novel’ block and to have fun doing it. It’s a little like playing golf instead of watching it on TV. Heaven knows, any visit to a local golf course will show you that there are far more passionate but untalented amateurs having fun on the links than gifted professionals. It’s the same with NaNoWriMo.

I had no idea what to write, even on October 31, but I had read founder Chris Baty’s guide called “No Plot? No Problem!” It began with himself and a dozen friends in San Francisco a few years back. They all started together, though only three or four finished that year. He advises the novice author not to worry,

but to just start writing. Characters will begin to emerge and eventually so will a plot. And he promises that things will happen to the characters that will come as a complete surprise to you. He’s right.

So on November 1, Teilya and I sat down to write. Sometimes we write together at home or at the Second Cup. Sometimes we write separately...I can bat out 300 words at Timmie’s over my first cup of joe, and a weather delay in the Regina airport was good for 2,000 words! Teilya has her own favourite places and her own plot. Me? I picked a police procedural book that starts with a murder behind the Unitarian Church...discovered by the minister/chef. They do say to write what you know.

Here, on November 19th I have typed a little over 37,000 words. I’m in the homestretch. Teilya has farther to go, having written only 21,000 words, but then she has had exams and essays slowing her down. She’ll make it. And clearly, we’re not alone. Edmonton NaNoWriMo members have penned (or keyed) over 6 million words so far. I haven’t seen the global stats yet. And what have I learned? Well, that I can do it, for one thing and that writing can be a lot of fun, especially when you have a buddy to share bits and pieces of your efforts with. I suppose I always saw writing as something to be done for a reason: write a paper, a thank you letter, a sermon or whatever. This may be the first time I have written just for the sake of writing. I have no intention of trying to publish this and expect that I won’t be giving it to anyone other than Teilya to read. You see, I’ve also discovered that I have an – um –er – ‘active’ imagination when it comes to murder mysteries.

Besides, this novel is not being written to

be read. It's about the act of writing alone. It's like playing golf without a scorecard. I am doing this to see if I can do it. The real achievement is crossing the finish line, the actual product is secondary at best.

But here's the best part. November is not my favourite time of year. I often struggle. Speed writing has been a great distraction. This November has been fun. As with a really good read, I can just slip into another world, one of imagination and curious people. It turns out that all I had to do to brighten my darkest month was murder a few people. Go figure!

See you in church.
Brian

President's Message



Aliens are among us!!!!
Ok not really (well maybe, we don't know for sure) but now that I have your attention I can wish you all Happy Holidays, may you have time with your loved ones and enjoy this holiday season and may this last the whole year long.

See you in church!
Mike Keast

Blue Christmas Help Needed

After several years of leadership, Arlene Zajic is taking a well-earned rest from leading the dinner portion of Blue Christmas. What's Blue Christmas? For the last 11 years UCE has offered a special service on December 23rd for those who struggle with the holiday season. There is a quiet service honouring grief, pain and loss, led by Brian. It is followed by a simple supper of soups, breads and pies prepared by members and served by volunteer waitstaff.

If you have never been part of the service or the supper it is renewing, refreshing and rewarding. We need soup makers, bread and pie makers (or providers), set up and clean up people and servers. There will be sign-up sheets in the foyer throughout November and December.

Most importantly we need a coordinator for the dinner! You need to be a willing and enthusiastic organizer. Arlene has detailed plans and support documentation and will talk you through the process. Blue

Christmas is a great gift to our church and our wider community. If you would like to get a further sense of what's entailed, please call Arlene at 780-465-6284 or talk to Brian Kiely.

Campus Ministry Update



In October, I joined Sylvia Krogh to host a group of German teachers, in Edmonton to observe teaching practices. My house guest, Guenter Z., attended UCE twice, picked up, read and discussed brochures, was so

impressed he immediately Googled a UU church in Kassel, Germany where he will attend. Talk about UU's without borders, eh?

On October 17th The Interfaith Chaplains Association participated in Make Poverty History on the U of A campus. I brought the Unitarians for Social Justice banner which was displayed; and sang 3 anti-poverty songs with the Raging Grannies. Members from Westwood and UCE attended.

Also in October, at Beth Shalom synagogue, with Rabbi David Kunin as moderator, began a series of discussions based on Richard Dawkins, "The God Delusion," and Christopher Hitchens book on atheism. I am participating in the discussions, November 22nd, and December 20th at 6 p.m., attending end of sabbath services before and after the discussions. Rabbi Kunin is an eclectic, worldly-wise speaker with much knowledge and energy! Come, participate! This is a relevant topic, since the question of having the words "to the glory of God," removed from the invocation for U of A graduands has been put before the Board of Governors there, by the Atheists and Agnostics Club, who insist the words exclude their beliefs.

Interfaith book studies at our 169 HUB offices continue with the book of Ecclesiastes at Tuesday's Soup and Study, @ 12:30; on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. with the New York bestseller "The Shack" which is an allegorical tale of dealing with anger at the behaviour of god. Both studies are lively, one Unitarian student is finding the Ecclesiastes studies interesting, since the author, one "Qohelith" seems to repeat that no matter what we achieve

in our personal or spiritual lives, its all "vanity and chasing after the wind!"

On October 29th , The Interfaith Chaplains Association (UAICA) was invited to bring interfaith prayers to City Hall, for their 30th anniversary, we all read prayers from our denomination, attended a reception afterwards, where we had opportunities to talk about our faith.

On October 31st , at noon, I represented UAICA at a pot luck reception sponsored by the Dean of Students. It was an opportunity to meet, once again, the staff who work in the Student's Union Building, in social services and career planning for students on campus.

On Nov. 4th , (US election night!) with the Chester Ronning Centre, UAICA sponsored a Faith and Politics lecture at the Kings' College, with Molly Worthen, History and Theology Ph.D candidate from Yale University as speaker. In her letter of thanks, she mentioned that the Christian Reformed chaplains had better be careful of the Unitarians, as we are very subtle and successful at influencing young minds. I hope she is right, and manages to find me a Michael Servetus bobble head to bug Rick van Manen with when he brings out his John Calvin model.

On Nov. 16th The Campus Ministry Team of Gilbert, Suzette and Audrey (Ray being "under the weather") met to plan the events that promote UU's on Campus. Look for Suzette's postings on the UCE website for more. If you are attending any post secondary school, or are at the U of A , or are a member of a youth group, and may be interested in films, powerful discussions, current movies with reprise, trips to galleries, and a general enthusiasm for being young and ready to take some risks, let us know! Last year we explored Vampire life, Zombies and scientific possibility, The Golden Compass, all with some very interesting points of view!! Contact: Rev. Audrey Brooks Campus Ministry, at audbrook@telusplanet.net, Office hours by appointment at 780-489-8842 for Pastoral Care visits.

Audrey Brooks

The Green Space

Updates on the Green Sanctuary Project and other environmental news, tips and ideas.

Socially Conscious Shopping- Green Shopping

Everywhere we look we see opportunities to be more responsible in our decisions as a consumer. WebPages and books on this subject are multiplying like rabbits.

It comes down to individual action — you and me, each doing what we can to reduce the amount of stuff necessary to run our lives.

The most important decision is to not buy at all! But what do we do when “not buy at all” may not be an option. The pressure to buy and buy is everywhere - we are in the “shopping season”. For inspiration see the documentary film about rampant consumerism “What would Jesus buy?” It is available to rent. It is playing at Metro Cinema in Zeidler Hall December 4 at 7 pm. and 9 p.m.

Suggestions for the season of very high consumption:

- Give of your love, care, time and talents.
- Give fair trade products. Give gifts of donations.
- Buy organic.
- Buy a clothes rack. (Dryers consume huge amounts of energy)
- Buy a two flush toilet conversion kit for \$48.99. *Made in Lethbridge and used world wide-these are available from www.raisingspaces.com.*
- Shop at stores that sell local products and support local artisans and businesses. *Art Gallery of Alberta at 10230 Jasper Avenue has a gallery shop. Art Craft Council at 10186 106 Street sells original fine crafts. Smokin' Iron Farms at 11401 50 street sells local meats and much more. Smokin' carries local greenhouse grown tomatoes and peppers available towards the end of January.*

My perfect gift suggestion for 2008:

In a reusable shopping bag put:
Alberta Wines**, Highwood Crossing products (oils and grains), Sonny boy cereal (flour and pancake mix), wild rice, and an organic turkey. Include delicious recipes for muffins, breakfast hot cereals and stuffing.

*Remember to take your own bags when you go shopping.

**Field Stone Fruit Wines and enSante wines available at Sherbrooke Liquor Store at 11819 St Albert Trail
Kathy Stanley

In Cost Saving News. . .

Some great news from the office. We have a new photocopier which saves us approximately \$300.00 a month! Faxes are no longer being printed out—they come via email so we're also saving paper.

solstice, songs & mistletoe Monday, 15 December 2008 Unitarian Church of Edmonton 7:00 PM Free Admission

Edmonton Vocal Minority and Chorealis, the choir of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, present their annual Christmas event, solstice, songs & mistletoe on Monday, 15 December. Along with the traditional and non-traditional seasonal music presented by the choirs, there will be carol singing, refreshments, and activities guaranteed to put everyone in a festive mood.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 780-488-1498, e-mail sing@evmchoir.com, or visit www.evmchoir.com

CD Release Party

Chorealis is delighted to invite you all to the celebration of the release of our first CD entitled "My Song" which features original choral music by our own Gordon Ritchie. After the Unitarian Church of Edmonton's Christmas "Carols and Lessons" service on December 7th at 10:30 am, there will be a soup luncheon from 11:30-12:30. Chorealis will sing several selections from our new CD following the luncheon. Please join us. The CD's are great Christmas gifts at \$20 each.



First Annual UCE Bottle Drive

Do you have bottles and cans cluttering up your space? No time to take them into a recycling depot? Want to participate in something huge?

Well UCE wants to help you out. Bring in your bottle, cans, and juice boxes and let's see how big of a pile we can make in the social hall!
Mike Keast

Our Neighbouring Faiths World Religion Course

If you are interested in learning more about the six major religions that shape our world, you may wish to set aside Tuesdays from February 17 through March 24. Brian Kiely will offer the Our Neighbouring Faiths course in both afternoon and evening sessions. You can choose 1- 3:30p.m. or 7 to 9:30 p.m. (you can attend either session). This will be a lecture and slide course with lots of time for questions and conversation.

The course is free, but we will accept donations of up to \$20 to help cover the cost of reading materials. Registration will open in January.

Westwood's Winter Solstice Service

What is the Westwood Winter Solstice service?

Winter solstice is the point in the year that marks the shortest day and the turning point when the days start to get longer again.

Westwood hosts an annual pagan winter solstice service to honour this important event. This year we are hosting a single service in a larger venue instead of three separate evening services at Westwood.

Winter darkness and cold can make us feel isolated and we need to renew our connections with each other and the earth, to receive the gifts of the darkness and to "Share the Light". We will call the directions, hear stories about the solstice, sing, chant, turn darkness into light, fear into hope, sadness into joy and renew the cycle of life. Gordon Ritchie will play his Celtic harp and the Westwood choir Harmonia will also sing. Refreshments will follow. The offering will be given to I-Human and

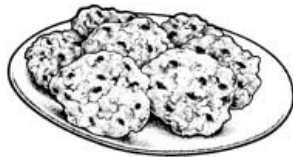
to Operation Friendship. Everyone is welcome.

At time of writing this article we are still waiting to hear from the engineers to let us know if we can use the City Room at City Hall. Our backup plan is to use the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. What is certain is that Westwood will be hosting a wonderful Winter Solstice Service at 2 PM on Sunday, December 21st, 2008. Please look for updated notices about the location in early December and check Westwood's website.

*Westwood Winter Solstice Planning group -
Lorian Kennedy, Leigh Bornn and Bette Ilich.*

It's going to be a "Cookie Christmas"...

The RE program is sponsoring and organizing a "Cookie Christmas" celebration on Saturday, December 13th from 2-5pm at the church. There will be a cookie exchange for anyone interested – please bring 6 dozen of your favourite cookie or square and exchange for 6 dozen treats from other contributors! We will also decorate cookies, make dog/cat treats, create decorations to take home, have a sing-along...lots of fun for all. Everyone welcome!!
for more information, please call Michelle at 780-454-5816, or at dre@uce.ca.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wed. Dec. 3rd 7:30 p.m. at the Francis Winspear Auditorium

Lois Hole loved to read out the Nine Lessons every year, for this event. Under the direction of Robert de Frece, you will hear the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers and the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus in a program of sacred and secular music, for the season.

Since it began in 1912, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has been a hallmark event in Edmonton. Marnie Giesbrecht-Segger and Joachim Segger will play the Davis organ. After expenses, the monies received will be given to the U of Alberta Food Bank, as part of the U of A Chaplains Association support of that much used campus community service.

Committee Chairs Meet

Chairpersons of the major church committees held their semi-annual meeting Nov. 8 under the able leadership of vice-president Lynn Wolff. Those attending noted some UCE successes of recent months, such as the new front-hall rug, the launch of the Green Sanctuary program, and the social justice committee efforts on behalf of Guantanamo prisoner Omar Khadr. The group also looked at some challenges, such as getting more members involved in church and committee activities. Some ideas were discussed: more virtual committees that work on-line; more one-time brainstorming sessions instead of regular committee meetings; maybe a big map showing where people live so UCE neighbours can start connecting. *Susan Ruttan*

Goods and Services Silent Auction

This event welcomes your bids til 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 7th. Check out all the items that are available, and remember that this is our church's biggest fund raiser of the year, so come and support our community and do some Christmas shopping as well.

History Project Update

Thank you for your interest in the UCE History Project, which kicked off in September. So far you have seen snapshots of Ruth Patrick and Dorothy Keeler, two giants who have shaped our past and present.

There is much more to come! Other notable members are currently being interviewed and we will share their thoughts and observations with you. We will distribute a short summary of the interviews approximately every two months.

We now have a section of the bulletin board devoted to the project, so have a look. Check out the web site too.

We are looking for two volunteers to review UCE materials currently in the Archives so we know what treasures lie hidden from our past.

Ideas? Feedback? Please contact Louise Charach or Susan Ruttan.

Laughter Yoga- Beating the Winter Blues, Happily!

Want to try something different? Something physical, spiritual and healthy? Laugh with instructor Oceana Hall at a single session sponsored by the UCE Program Committee, Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 pm. Laughing yoga washes away stress and helps us find ourselves. Oceana will also teach yoga breathing as part of this class.

You won't need special equipment nor do you need to be an experienced yogi. Mobility is not an issue. Just come to this free session in comfortable clothing.

Please sign up at the Program credenza in the Foyer or call the office.

Church Storytelling Fund Raiser

"Story Night In Canada" takes place at the church Saturday, February 21 starting 7:30 p.m. Tellers returning from last year are our minister Brian Kiely, Wendy Edey, and Vern Wishart. Tellers new this year are Pearl-Ann-Gooding, Caroline Stuart, and our church auditor David Haas. Come out and enjoy an evening of six Canuck tales about Canada and Canadians while supporting the church financially. Tickets \$25, available NOW from David at 780-940-9658 or Susan at 780-488-8141 or after services. Early bird book prizes for two tickets. Consider buying as a great Christmas gift!

Where's the New Kitchen?

Those who donated money in January to build a new kitchen may be wondering what's happened with that project. Well, it's been delayed, but for a reason. We're attempting to get matching provincial money for the roughly \$70,000 we raised ourselves, and that involves jumping through a few hoops.

The province provides grants from lottery revenue to non-profit community groups to help build or repair their buildings, through the Community Facility Enhancement Program. Churches aren't allowed to apply, so we've created a separate body called the Edmonton Unitarian Community Foundation under the Alberta Societies Act which will qualify for the funding program. Bernie Keeler has done all the work on this, and he's now waiting for federal

approval of our foundation as a federally-recognized charity that can issue tax receipts to donors.

Once we get the federal OK, we'll submit our application for an Alberta grant. We've modeled our approach on the Unitarian Church of Calgary, which got two grants totaling \$53,000 from the Community Facility Enhancement Program to retrofit its building to make it barrier-free. Wheelchair accessibility is a high priority of the program, but since our building is already accessible, we'll need to argue for a grant on other grounds – such as the fact that we provide much-needed low-cost space to local groups. If we get a grant it should allow us to tackle not just the new kitchen, but the social hall area as well.

Susan Ruttan

Why I Cut My Hair

Last Sunday I cut off my 8 inch ponytail of bushy brown/ gray hair, followed by much snipping and thinning, gelling and fretting. Since then, I have been musing over the question: Why did I cut my hair?

The idea was planted after an unpleasant encounter with a US Customs and Immigration goon at the border. He claimed that my Canadian Passport was not valid ID for a (dual Canadian/) US citizen, he would "put a note in my file that I had ben warned". Travel is hassle enough without harassment! I dug up my expired US Passport to renew, and there was my 12-years- ago- self smiling back at me from the photo! Different hair! Softly waved, collar length, Kinder, gentler hair.

For the past 8 years, coincidental with the election of George W. Bush and 911, I grew more frustrated with things beyond my control. At least I could tie my hair down and make it obey! I grew it to a length that could be braided, bound and confined and never looked back to "bad hair days" of the past. I rebelled against the common wisdom that women look younger with shorter hair, suspecting its origin was hairdressers who want regular customers. Sitting in an audience, I would scan the sea of heads in front of me, thinking it boring to see all of the women wearing close cropped little "fur hat" hairdos. Not me! I had long, wild, free hair, but it wasn't. It was usually on a choke chain...

I remember an interview with a sociologist who did extensive research on the relationship between the time line of women's lives and their changing hairstyles. Teen rebellion? Dye it black! Starting University? grow it out! Falling in love? Fluff it out! Having a baby? Cut it off! Getting divorced? Change the colour! Feeling old? A blue perm! These trends are surprisingly common. Flipping through our family album, I see my hairstyles changing to reflect my life changes, too.

Why did I cut my hair? My life has changed again. I recognize that my personal story is in a new chapter, Everyone is healthy and happy in my immediate family, and friends. We have no financial worries. I have interesting commitments and projects. Bla, bla, bla. Most importantly: The world has changed with the election of Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States. He has given millions of people around the world hope for a better, more peaceful future. I count myself in those jubilant millions, having worked hard to elect him from this remote Canadian outpost.

On a recent trip to Chicago, I saw the "Stars and Stripes" waving over the cityscape. For the first time in about eight years, I didn't have that teeth clenching sensation of disdain. I am not ashamed of my birthplace anymore. The reservoir of negativity that has been filled by election fraud, invasion, occupation, illegal imprisonment, exploitation, Blood for oil, and lies is gently draining away.

I am proud and hopeful for America. I can suspend my peace activism, protesting US foreign policy (for a while). Soon I will I hear a deep confident voice and see a handsome brown face with a message that I can believe instead of lurching to change the channel when the Presidential Seal flashes on the screen. I am ready for a kinder, gentler future and, of course, kinder, gentler hair. Marilyn Gaa



Seven year old Katrina Henkelman launched her first one woman art show in order to raise funds for organizations she believes are important. She worked at the project for a year and intensively for the last four months. The show and sale raised raised \$1420

Interview with Katrina Henkelman, October 12, 2008 by her dad, Greg

Interviewer: Could you tell us how you decided to do this show?

Katrina: I donate money to World Wildlife Fund and my mom went to Zebra Child Protection Agency with her class and she told me about it. I decided to donate money to them and I love art. So, I decided to have an art show and my parents agreed.

Interviewer: Why art? Why not raise money another way?

Katrina: Well, I love art! And I love doing it, so I decided to do art because it makes me feel happy.

Interviewer: What got you interested in WWF? Why did you decide to start supporting them?

Katrina: I love animals. I know that lots of animals are endangered, like pandas, sharks, and others. So I chose them.

Interviewer: I hear you had a chance to see the Canadian headquarters of WWF when you were in Toronto. How did that make you feel?

Katrina: Really good. They gave me two stuffies, lots of information, and a tattoo. They also sent me kid's stuff in the mail.

Interviewer: Let's talk about the Zebra Child Protection Agency. You said your mom visited the centre. What did she tell you about it?

Katrina: She told me that it helps kids who have



Retired and Semi-Retired
Christmas Friendship
Luncheon at UCE
Friday, December 5th, 2008
12 noon

to leave their families because they are not loved the way they should be.

Interviewer: How did that make you feel?

Katrina: Kind of not too good because they had to leave their families so I also decided to raise money for them.

Interviewer: Let's talk about your art, now. Why or how did you first get interested in art?

Katrina: Because the first time I tried art, it was really fun so I kept doing it and I became interested in it. I would paint things of my imagination, and things that were real.

Interviewer: Did your art change once you started school?

Katrina: Kind of. I could still do my own ideas after school at home, but at school I had to do the art that my teacher said to do.

Interviewer: Did you find that this helped your art, to have a teacher give you ideas?

Katrina: Yes, it did because it helped me learn more things like I should never give up.

Interviewer: I understand that you learned about different artists and their styles in school. Could you tell us about some of the artists and what you like about them?

Katrina: Vincent van Gogh and Ted Harrison. I like van Gogh because he had a very interesting life and he wasn't really famous until he died, which I thought was sad. I like Ted Harrison because he makes things stick out and makes things not the real colours which makes it look more abstract and I think that looks neat.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you want to share with us?

Katrina: It's amazing because so many people wanted to come see my art and I would like to thank them.

After the art show...

Katrina felt happy and proud about how the day went. She was very surprised how many people came and showed how much they love her work (her 60 plus items sold very quickly) and the support this provided for the organizations she loves.



The Fine Dining team enjoys a break during November's French Fine Dining event. From Left, Teilya and Brian Kiely, Kathy Stanley, Michelle Van Der Molen, Lauren Stanley and Jessica Jibben. The team raised \$350 for the kitchen fund and served an excellent seven course meal.

Kidstuff

Michelle Van Der Molen, DRE

(NOTE: There will be no Children's Church on December 21st or 28th ...Children are invited to join adults in the Sanctuary. Please take a Quiet Bag with you..there are Seasonal Activities in the bags)

Chalice Children (ages 4-7) meet in the large classroom, located in second hallway.

They will be "Celebrating Me and My World" through song, movement, crafts, stories and other activities. December 7th will be a preparation time with the Pathfinder group for our "Santa Lucia" pageant that will happen the following week. December 14th is our traditional Mitten Tree service, where the Chalice Children will participate in many ways.

Pathfinders (ages 8-12) meet in the small classroom located at end of second hallway.

Pathfinders will join the Chalice Children Group in the Large Classroom on December 7th to help prepare for our "Santa Lucia" pageant on the following week. December 14th is our annual Mitten Tree Service, with participation by all.

Teacher Sign Up A new set of lessons for the Winter/Spring terms will be posted in the foyer for sign-up by teachers and helpers. The Pathfinders will start a new curriculum in January called "In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program". The Chalice Children continue "Celebrating Me and My World" with all of the wonderful things we can do for others, and later on celebrating the world we live in and share. If you are an adult interested in teaching or helping with these lessons, please sign up on the poster in the Foyer and/or talk to Michelle Van Der Molen, DRE. (dre@uce.ca ; 780-454-5816)

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers that make these lessons happen! If you are new to this program, please make sure to ask for an introduction packet, including registration forms. Registering means that we have some contact information about you; we can keep up to date only if you update that information! Whether you are returning to us or new to us, we'd sure like to make sure that we are informed.

There will be a large calendar of events in the second hallway as well, on the outside wall of the large classroom. Please check here if you'd like to see what is happening, as well as in the newsletter and the orders of service.

The nursery will be staffed by Youth again this year. Many thanks to our able staff— Erin Vandermolen-Pater, Graeme Battigelli, Hannah Jackson and Chandra Smith. If YOU are 11 or older, and have taken the Babysitting course and have an S.I.N., you are invited to apply to be part of our Nursery staff for 2008/09. Also, we welcome adults that may want to volunteer very occasionally to join our youth in the Nursery. A Volunteer Registration form must be filled out by anyone wishing to volunteer (see Michelle). Please pass on any concerns or comments you might have about the Nursery to Michelle (780-454-5816 , dre@uce.ca)

The youth have decided... youth ages 12-20 are invited to participate in Popcorn Theology...movies, snack, discussion. The next session will be held at the Church on November 30th from 12pm to 3:00pm. We'll be watching "Little Buddha" and talking about Karma. Lunch provided; we'll meet in the Social Hall at the Youth corner. December 13th will be the next meeting – Come participate in our "Cookie Christmas" celebration from 2-5 at church, and stay for a potluck youth dinner and games night from 5-9. Please check with Michelle at 780-477-7576 or mavdmolen@shaw.ca if you have any questions.

Hymnals

Did you know you could buy a hymnal for the church—or for your own use? The cost is \$55.00 for a hymnal you take home. \$50.00 will buy one for congregational use and that includes a bookplate with donor names and a short message (i.e. in memory of, in honour of, etc.) See Bernie Keeler.

Just a Reminder

If you have a fund-raising idea for the church, please make sure to run it past the Ways and Means Committee to make sure that it fits the schedule and that is appropriate and supported! Please contact Michelle Van Der Molen, Acting chairperson at 780-477-7576 or mavdmolen@shaw.ca with your ideas.

Avgen Gift Card Fundraising

Thanks to all those who have participated in this ongoing fund raiser for UCE You've seen the notice board and the order forms....some of you now have collections of gift cards and certificates to spend or pass on....but did you know... This is a **year-round** opportunity for UCE— not just for the holidays. Even a small order every month can add up to money for the church. If you get into the habit of ordering for stores you are at regularly (like gas stations, or department stores, or grocery stores), we can see this grow! If you would like ideas for making this work for you, please talk to Barb Forbes. Please turn your order forms (found on credenza, in the foyer) in to Barb Forbes with a cheque made out to Barb.

Fabulous Food

Food, food, fabulous food and a big problem in our kitchen If you are involved in an event that includes food and there is some left over, please make sure that is removed from our tiny kitchen. If you wish it to be used for an event the following day you need to mark it clearly and to see that it is used at that time, including cleaning up. Public Health Regulations prohibit the storing of perishable food for more than one day. It is impossible for the wonderful coffee makers to handle more than coffee and tea on Sunday mornings.

Protecting Our Floors

When it is wet or snowy or muddy outside we really appreciate your taking time to change or clean your footwear just as you would in your home.

Property Management Committee

UCE is a welcoming congregation, which means our community is open to all, without regard to sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ability, or income. It's nice to have you with us.

**THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN PUBLISHED
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Deadline for the January newsletter is
December 12, 2008**

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Denise Wenzel and Pam Willerton
Ministerial Relations:
Pastoral Care: vacant
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btkeeler@shaw.ca 780-458-1250
Social Justice Committee: Sylvia Krogh
skrogh@shaw.ca 780-454-6216
Vision: Gilbert Bouchard 780-439-8149
Worship Committee: John Pater 780-477-7576

UCE Walking Friday Mornings

This group is open to everyone who likes to walk (and talk) and eat! Join us and bring your spouse and friends.

SCHEDULE - December 5, 2008 to Jan 09, 2009

(Entertainment Books are often useful for the Lunch component of these walks)

Leaders are assigned arbitrarily so exchanges are expected and possible.

1. We always meet at the church at 9:30 on Friday mornings and car pool from there to the walk of the day. (A loonie for in town and a twonie for out of town to the driver is suggested.) If you prefer to meet us at the starting point of the walk please let the leader (or Dorothy or Helen or UCE office) know.
2. We try to maintain an email list to update you on changes. If you wish to be added to that list please contact Helen Ready or Dorothy Keeler. Many of us carry cellphones.
3. Sometimes we change routes or leaders to accommodate weather or other activities. Check the Order of Service each week. We will try to advise those on our email list in advance but sometimes you will not get that news until you arrive at the church at 9:30.
4. Many, but not all walks, finish with lunch at a restaurant before returning to the church.
5. Many of our walks are dog friendly. If you want more information please contact the leader for the day.
6. If you have a favourite trail please let us know so we can incorporate it into our schedule.
7. Call one of us if you need more information about a route or this program.
8. During the nicer weather we try to go further afield.

Friday Dec 5 - River Valley Road and

Victoria Park Rd with Seniors Lunch

leader - Kathy Stanley and/or Shirley

Edgar

Friday Dec 12 - Louise McKinney Park and

look at the Blodgett poetry

leader - Marlo Miles and/or Elin Logan

Friday Dec 19 - St Albert (a new walk there) -

Potluck Christmas Lunch at Dorothy's

leader - Jolien Pauw

Friday Jan 2 - Historical Walking Tour in Downtown Edmonton

leader - Helen Ready

Friday Jan 9 - Emily Murphy Park to

Hawrelak Park (cross country ski if there is snow and you can)

leader - Donna Hamar

Dorothy Keeler (780 458 1250) and Helen Ready (780 454 8054)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2008</h1>						
	1 6:30 renter C2	2 5:00 renter S	3	4 ^{11:00} renter S 7:30 Chorealis S	5 noon Seniors Friendship Luncheon 7:30 Edmntn School Boys Concert S 7:00 renter C1	6 7:00 renter C2
7 "Lessons and Carols", noon, Membership mtng., Chorealis CD Release Party; Silent Auction 3:00 renter S	8 7:00 renters S and C2	9 5:00 renter S	10	11 ^{11:00} renter S 7:30 Chorealis S	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 renter C1	13 2:00 Cookie Christmas 7:00 renter C2
14 "Mitten Tree" noon, Social Justice mtng. 1:00 renter S	15 7:00 solstice, songs & mistletoe S	16	17	18 ^{11:00} renter S 7:30 Chorealis S	19 7:00 renter C1	20 7:00 renter C2
21 "The Lump of Coal" noon, Green Sanctuary 1:00 renter S 7:00 renter S	22	23 6:30 Blue Christmas	24 7:00 Santa Claus is Coming to Town	25	26 7:00 renter C1	27 7:00 renter C2
28 "Watch Morning"	29	30	31	